

Abstract

Emission inventories and air quality in India

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Air pollution is one of the critical environmental problems being faced in India. The workshop presentation deals with the air pollution scenario in Indian cities. An air quality analysis is carried out for 27 cities categorised into urban agglomerates, smaller cities, and industrial cities for the criteria pollutants (SPM, RSPM, SO₂ and NO_x) during the period 1998-2002. In addition, the cities are also categorised in terms of an exceedance indicator. It is found that SPM and RSPM concentrations are high in many cities, while a few cities have high NO_x levels as well. The reduction in ambient levels of lead and SO₂ are highlights of the air pollution control programme in India. However, the monitoring programme needs to be expanded to cover additional important pollutants such as PM_{2.5} and ozone.

A summary of the different emission inventory studies undertaken for India by various authors is presented. Special emphasis is laid on the emissions of GHGs, SO₂ and BC, all of which have implications on the climate as well. It is emphasised that studies related to regular updating of the emission inventory, development of local emission factors, and source apportionment need to be undertaken in India.